

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**European Institutions Office**

**Catherine Ashton**

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs  
Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 17 March 2010  
Our Ref.: B1050

Dear Baroness Ashton,

**‘Bloodied but unbowed: Unwarranted state violence against Bahraini protestors’**

In view of the ongoing violent crackdown against protestors in Bahrain, Amnesty International would like to draw your attention to the attached short report, *Bloodied but unbowed: Unwarranted state violence against Bahraini protestors*, published today.

Based on first hand testimonies, the report details human rights abuses committed by Bahraini police and security forces during the 15-18 February 2011 protests, which left seven people dead and hundreds injured. Security forces used live ammunition at close range and extreme force against protestors without warning and apparently targeted protestors’ heads, chests and abdomens.

Over the past two days, we have witnessed similar tactics being used by the Bahraini police and security forces once more. Eye-witnesses have told Amnesty International that Bahraini riot police and plain-clothed security forces have used shotguns, rubber bullets and teargas against demonstrators. Ambulance drivers have been attacked by riot police with batons as they tried to reach the wounded and access to medical facilities has been blocked by police, leaving injured people lying unassisted in the streets.

As an immediate response to this crisis, Amnesty International calls on the European Union to:

- Use all possible contact with the Bahraini authorities to urge restraint from police and security forces, to guarantee the right to peaceful protest, to afford protection to peaceful protestors from excessive force by police or violence by others and to allow access to medical attention;
- Publicly call for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to conduct a full, thorough and transparent investigation into the killings and attacks on protestors and the assaults on health and medical workers;
- Immediately suspend the supply of all weaponry, munitions including ammunition, and related equipment used by the riot police and security forces in Bahrain, and conduct an urgent comprehensive review of all arms supplies and training support.

We remain at your disposal to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas J. Beger  
Director